

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A wall article hanger for a wall article using one or more d-ring assemblies, ~~the d-ring assembly having a plate body adapted to attach to the wall article and a movable ring mounted to the plate body,~~ the wall article hanger comprising an elongated body having:

a) a first end portion;

b) a center portion having one or more arms extending from the center portion and adapted to attach to the movable ring; and

c) a second end portion having:

at least one prong protruding at an angle from a longitudinal axis of the elongated body ~~[[,]]; and~~

a plate extending away from the at least one prong and to or beyond the one or more arms, the plate terminating in a face adapted to contact a wall article when the at least one prong is being pushed into a wall surface

~~wherein the at least one prong is adapted to penetrate the wall to support the wall article, the elongated body being sized in length so that the first end portion contacts a portion of the plate body to keep the elongated body generally aligned with the d-ring assembly after attachment thereto.~~

2. canceled.

3. (original) The hanger of claim 1, further comprising a pair of arms, each arm extending from a side of the elongated body.

4. (currently amended) The hanger of claim [[1]] 3, where the at least one arm has a curved shape.

5. (currently amended) The hanger of claim 1, [[further comprising]]  
wherein the at least one prong further comprises a pair of prongs.

6. (currently amended) The hanger of claim 1, further comprising a pair of arms, each extending from a side of the center portion, and wherein the at least one prong further comprises a pair of [[the]] prongs at the second end portion,~~and a plate at the second end portion, the plate forming a bridge between the at least one prong and a rear surface of the wall article so that forces applied to the wall article are transmitted directly to the at least one prong via the plate.~~

7. (currently amended) A d-ring assembly and picture hanger combination comprising:

a) a d-ring assembly having a plate body adapted to attach to [[the]] a wall article [[a]] and a movable ring mounted to the plate body; and

b) [[the]] a wall article hanger further comprising: [[of claim]]  
an elongated body having:

a) a first end portion;

b) a center portion having one or more arms extending from the center portion and attached to the movable ring; and

c) a second end portion having:

at least one prong protruding at an angle from a longitudinal axis of the elongated body; and

a plate extending away from the at least one prong and to or beyond the one or more arms, the plate terminating in a face adapted to contact the wall article when the at least one prong is being pushed into a wall surface to support the wall article.

8. (currently amended) A method of hanging a wall article having a [[D-ring]] d-ring assembly attached thereto comprising the steps of:

a) first attaching a body to a ring of the d-ring assembly, the body having at least one prong on a first end portion thereof, and extending at an angle from a longitudinal axis of the body,

b) maintaining the body being sized in length to keep the ring of the d-ring in a generally vertical position after the attaching step, and

[[b)]] c) then pressing the wall article against a wall surface so that the at least one prong penetrates the wall surface to support the wall article.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein a plurality of d-ring assemblies are provided, the wall article has a pair of d-ring assemblies, with a body attached to each ring of each d-ring assembly.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the body has a plate at the first end portion, the plate being sized so that pressing of the wall article causes a rear surface of the wall article to press against an edge of the plate to drive the at least one prong into the wall surface.

11. canceled.

12. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the maintaining step further comprising sizing the body in length so that a lower portion thereof contacts a portion of the d-ring to prevent rotation of the body.

13. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the maintaining step further comprising manually holding the ring in the generally vertical position.